

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Planning and Development,

My name is Cindy Eilenberger. I am a Connecticut resident, currently residing in Ledyard. I strongly urge you to support HB 5170 An Act Concerning the Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs. My reasons for supporting this bill include the following points:

- This legislation is long overdue in Connecticut. Due to Connecticut suffering from extremely harsh winters, with this year having record breaking cold, along with sweltering summers it is troubling to me that laws are not in place to protect animals who are left outside to endure these conditions. Many states around us already have these protections in place for animals.
- The bill is straightforward, humane and fair. It seeks to protect dogs during extreme weather conditions before they show visible signs of suffering and distress when it's evident the weather poses a threat to the dog's welfare.
- Significantly, it gives Animal Control Officers clear direction and the necessary tools to help before the situation becomes life-threatening. Currently their hands are tied, leaving them unable to step in and hold those accountable when they allow pets to suffer in extreme heat or cold.
- The bill passed the House overwhelmingly in 2018; now we need to finish what was begun four years ago.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge the Committee to pass HB 5170.

Cindy Eilenberger
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